

SUBJECTS.

represented were prepared to attend to the Maramat. works in the Allams.

Dewan's reply.—Please submit a petition to that effect signed by all the proprietors on whose behalf you bring forward the proposal.

VI. Sanitation, Vital Statistics and Medical Relief.

42. Elective system of membership for the Town Improvement Committees.

Mr. K. Atchuthan Pillai (Member, Trivandrum Taluk) requested that the privilege of electing the non-official members of the Town Improvement Committees might be conferred upon the people. He added that the inhabitants of the towns were being asked to pay local taxes and that therefore they could claim this privilege of electing the non-official members of the Town Improvement Committees all the more strongly. He prayed that Government might be pleased to give the matter their best consideration.

Dewan's reply.—The Presidents of all the Committees have recommended the adoption of the elective system. As all the Committees have now resolved to levy local taxation, Government are prepared to allow the concession. Rules for the purpose are being drafted.

43. Increased grants to the Town Improvement Committees.

Mr. P. M. Chacko (Member, T. I. C., Kottayam) stated that 15 years ago Government were pleased to sanction grant of Rs. 4,000 to the Kottayam T. I. C. Although the grant was Rs. 4,000, the Kottayam T. I. C. either did not find the necessity of supplying certain needs or those needs did not press their claims on the Committee. It spent only Rs. 2,800 and the balance was credited to Government. In subsequent years, the grants were slightly increased by small amounts and in 1975 the grant rose to Rs. 4,690. From that year forward the grant decreased to Rs. 4,396 in 1982 and Rs. 4,300 in 1983. In 1984, with a view to stimulate local effort and self-help, the Government made a reduction of Rs. 1,300 on the previous year's grant, and as the Committee had no funds at its disposal for meeting current expenses, it was driven to the necessity of reducing the staff and of cutting down the number of lamps. In the hot season, the season of epidemics, the Committee could not, without the necessary funds, carry on the work that was entrusted to it. The estimate for the current year was Rs. 5,000 and the Committee was making every effort to find the necessary funds. The houses were being taxed, but at the highest reckoning the income from this head would come to only Rs. 750 a year and the income from other sources would be about Rs. 350, and still an amount of Rs. 900 was wanted. The Member

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therefore prayed that Government might be pleased to sanction an increased grant of Rs. 900 for the current year and to continue it until the finances reached a flourishing condition. He requested that, in addition to the above grant, Government might be pleased to sanction a lump grant of Rs. 5,000 to meet urgent requirements.

Mr. P. J. John (Member, Town Improvement Committee, Alleppey) stated that the town of Alleppey was not kept in a neat condition. The town was a big commercial centre and port in the State, and as such many people crowded there for commercial purposes. Therefore, there was every likelihood of its being visited by epidemics and other diseases, if the town be not constantly kept clean. In order to properly carry out the work of sanitation in the town, more funds were necessary. The Member requested that Government might be pleased to increase the grant to the T. I. C. at Alleppey to enable it to carry on the work of sanitation more systematically and thus keep the town neat and clean.

Dewan's reply.—Government are not prepared to increase the grants already sanctioned. The Committees must work up local taxation to meet their local needs.

44. Savings after expenditure from the item "Town Funds"

Mr. Kochu Hassan Kunju (Member, T. I. C., Quilon) requested that the annual savings after expenditure, from the item "Town Fund," might be added to that Fund and made available for the Committee whenever required.

Dewan's reply.—This is done now. Government do not appropriate the unexpended balance of the "Town Fund".

Mr. Krishnan Pandalay (Member, Quilon Taluk) being asked, said that the money was *not* available to the Committee. The Committee had addressed Government on the subject nearly half a dozen times and they were told in reply 'no', of course without assigning reasons.

Dewan.—I shall look up the papers.

45. Exclusion of qualified Christian Medical men.

Mr. N. E. Varghese (Member, Travancore and Cochin Christian Association) represented that recently an application from a qualified member of the Christian community for employment in the Medical Department was rejected on the ground that too many of his class had already been appointed to the Department and that preference should be given to Ezhavas, Mahomedans and Brahmans. He said that his community were well aware of the non-sectarian spirit of the present administration and it was the recognition of this impartiality that made the spirit of the endorsement the more disappointing to them.